

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

As an engaged citizen who deeply values our democracy, I want to speak to the importance of mail-in voting—not just as a policy, but as a practical, accessible, and empowering way to make sure every voice is heard.

Mail-in voting has been a game-changer for so many people, myself included. It provides the freedom to vote on my own time, to sit with the ballot, do my research, and make informed decisions without rushing through a crowded polling place. It's especially important for those who are elderly, have disabilities, live in rural areas, or simply can't afford to take time off work to vote in person. For them, mail-in voting isn't just a convenience—it's a lifeline to participation.

That's why I'm deeply concerned by recent legislation aimed at restricting access to this vital tool. States like Kansas and Utah are shortening mail-in ballot windows, adding ID requirements, and making voters jump through unnecessary hoops just to receive a ballot. At the federal level, new executive orders are pushing for in-person registration with proof of citizenship and banning ballots received after Election Day—even if they were mailed on time. These measures don't increase security; they create barriers.

Let's be honest: claims of widespread voter fraud with mail-in ballots have been repeatedly debunked. What we're seeing isn't about protecting elections—it's about suppressing votes, especially from communities that already face obstacles to the ballot box.

I oppose these changes because I believe voting should be simple, secure, and accessible for everyone. Mail-in voting has proven itself to be all of those things. It strengthens democracy by making sure more people—not fewer—can have a say in their future. We should be expanding access, not rolling it back.

Let's choose inclusion over restriction. Let's protect the right to vote in every form it takes. Let's do things the right way, not send us backwards in time.